

## OPERA SEASON IS OPENED AT LYRIC WITH ENTHUSIASM

Creator Organization Gives Creditable Rendition to Verdi's "Aida" Before a Large Audience.

BY GEORGE WILLIAMSON.

Opening the preholiday season of opera and adding to the wealth of musical offerings to Memphis and the contiguous territory, Verdi's "Aida" was given a creditable rendition Monday night before an audience which filled the larger part of the Lyric theater. The presentation was not so gorgeous nor elaborate as some that have been heard here, but there was little occasion for disappointment and this organization, under the direction and leadership of Signor Giuseppe Creatore, proved itself worthy of the fulsome expressions offered in other cities.

The initial performance for the local engagement was auspicious and the approval of the audience apparently was real.

The fact that there were vacant seats in the theater probably was due to the severe economic conditions prevailing in this section rather than to any feeling of uncertainty as to the excellence of the feast offered by Creatore's company, who have had such a liberal share in bringing choice artistic productions to this city. The spontaneity of applause and enthusiasm over the efforts of the company seemed to lend no doubt as to its genuineness. There were numbers of curtain calls, and they were distributed to all the principals, including the maestro himself, whose standing in the musical world is secure.

### Evans Is Star.

The outstanding luminary was one whose part was not a large one, yet he aroused more enthusiasm and warmth than any of the others. It was the coming home of a local favorite, Greek Evans, whose opera debut was when two seasons ago he sang the role of the Ethiopian king in "Aida." This wonderful young singer possesses a voice of beauty and a charm of expression which will always command for him hearty appreciation and make him a valued member of any organization. He easily dominated every scene in which he appeared and supplied great depth of passion and feeling. That he will shine in the role of the forefather in "Carmen" goes without saying.

In the title role of Aida, the Ethiopian slave, Agnes Robinson disclosed a sympathetic voice which was quite pretty at times, especially in her upper register, but lacking in elements of brightness. Her histrionic talents were best expressed in the scene with her savage father in the third act, while her best singing was in the duo with her soldier sweetheart.

As Amneris, the Egyptian king's haughty daughter, Henriette Wakefield, displayed qualities that appealed to many and invested the part with dignity worthy of its importance. Her voice was pleasing and some of her notes beautiful, but she lacked the fire expected of one whose melodious have been aroused. In several scenes, however, she rose to heights and shared liberally in the plaudits of the audience.

### Sciarretti Known Here.

Salvatore Sciarretti, as Radames, has been heard here several times in various roles. He possesses a tenor of the usual Italian type and uses it to advantage. At times he displayed a warmth of feeling that suggested hidden possibilities, while some of his tones were exquisite and rich in their brightness.

Nino Rueli, as the high priest, was well cast and gave creditable rendition of this part, having a voice of resonant quality and sweetness of tone. Other minor parts were in capable hands.

The chorus was not good looking, nor did it appear to rise to all the demands expected of it, but at times was very effective. The limited ballet work was enjoyed. The orchestra apparently was up to the standard of Creatore, although at times it seemed to forget that brass and strings can make more noise than human voices. This, perhaps, was due to its enthusiasm in trying to make the performance go with the traditional swing.

The offering of "Othello," another creation of Verdi, Tuesday night, with a strong cast, should prove the biggest event of the engagement. It will introduce Francesco Bocca, Fucco, leading tenor of the organization, in the title role. Marion Veryl will essay the role of Desdemona and Sybil Conklin will sing the part of Emilia, wife of Iago. It is the first time this opera has been given in Memphis, at least in more than a decade. Interest in it is keen for that reason and because it is said to be full of beauties and dramatic action.

## SUSPECT SHIP'S CREW OF ROBBING U. S. MAIL

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—When the Norwegian steamer *Heide* docked here 14 members of the crew were held by postoffice inspectors as material witnesses in an investigation of reported thefts of large quantities of valuables from United States mail aboard.

There were 52 sacks of mail cut open and rifled of their contents, it was said, out of the 258 bags sent by the New York postoffice to Cartagena and Porto Colombia on the last trip of the vessel.

The rifled sacks contained chiefly merchandise and jewelry, although the postoffice inspectors said that papers far more valuable than the jewelry were stolen.

Officers of the ship reported to the customs that suspicion centered upon two men.

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## Santa and Jack Frost Converse By Wireless

BY W. R. P.

Geo. kids—  
The other night I was tuning my old faithful coil, and getting the audions of my wireless set adjusted to catch the Arlington time signals and also to get any neighborhood

scamp, not a light be floating in the ether oscillations, when all of a sudden I stopped. I had gotten a strange signal. I waited. Again it was repeated.

"Santa, Santa, Santa."  
"Santa," I thought. "There is no station with that code call in the official call book. Wonder what the idea is. Perhaps it's some unregistered amateur." So I waited. The call was repeated many times, and at least I heard an answer.

"This is Santa Claus. Who is it?"  
In my surprise I dropped my hand on the contact switch of my storage batteries, and got a shock. Santa Claus! What was this—a joke?

Then came the first sender again. "This is Jack Frost. How are you, Santa? I haven't seen you for almost a year. 'Comin' around this year as usual?"

"Sure, Jack. Glad to hear from you. Can you supply me with about a million tons of snow this year?"

"Yes, I can, but what's the big idea? Did your airplane break down?"

**Foolish Talk.**  
"Now, don't be foolish. You talk like a mortal. If anyone knows I don't use an airplane, you do. Why, with gasoline so high, and reindeer food so cheap here at the north pole, I would be a nut."

"Yes," said Jack Frost. "I was only joking. But tell me some of your plans for this year. How about toys? They are your most used stock in trade, aren't they?"

"Yes, well, I'll tell you about toys. They are funny this year. I am watching the market closely, because they still are high, and I must buy at the best market. Of course, Germany lost most of her big toy trade in the war, but you would be surprised to know how fast she is gaining it again. I visited a doll factory there the other day. They are making good sleeping dolls there, and I think I will be able to get them cheap. But I have to pay for them with money that way. Most of my dolls will come from America. Lots of the smaller toys come from Japan this year. You'd be surprised."

But America will supply most of them.

"That's interesting. D'you s'pose Germany will get back her toy trade in time?"

"She will get a lot, but not what she had before the war."

"H'm. Well, how about the good old-fashioned Christmas trees?"

"That is a tender subject to me. The good old trees are becoming extinct. Not that there are not lots of them, but so many people live in flats, that the small artificial trees are serving. And I hate to see it. A real tree is more fun for the children, and after all that is the main thing at Christmas. I'll bet I don't carry many real trees this year."

**Work From Memphis.**  
"Where are you going to work from this year?"

"Memphis, Tenn., in the United States. It is the logical center of North America. I keep all of my stores there, and work out into the rest of the country from there. And there is another thing. You remember me of it. There will be more candy given out this year than ever before. I'm afraid there will be lots of sick tummies if parents don't watch out."

"Oh, well. That doesn't matter. That happens every year anyhow. Now that prices are so high, do people use more candy?"

"No. About the same. But the cards themselves have changed. The good old-fashioned 'season's greetings' has been replaced by some cute jazz verse like, 'I'd like to send you silks and wool and linen stuffs by yards, but the darn stuff costs so doggone much, I'll send two Christmas cards, or bunk like that.'"

"Will there be many candles on the trees this year?"

"Well, Santa, I've got to go to Holliand to freeze a few candles. They want to go skating there. I'll get you again, and I'll guarantee you the million tons of snow. I'll give you the pickiest and finest I have."

"That's fine. You are all right, Jack. Good-bye."

"Good-bye."

Then I caught the midnight time signal from Arlington.

Handy tin boxes of 12 tablets cost but a few cents—Larger packages. Aspirin is the trade mark of Bayer Manufacture of Monocrescicacidet of Balleitenscheid.



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## Daily Thoughts in Rhyme

By James Gaffney.

### UNSUNG HEROINES.

Many tune a harp for heroes bold,  
And great deeds they have done.  
With wild acclaim they hail the name  
Of some bright, deathless one.  
But I would sing of great men's wives,  
Whose names are scarcely known,  
Who struggled with genius all their lives  
And never made a moan.

Old Socrates loafed on the street all day,  
While his wife worked hard at home.  
No wonder her temper at last gave way  
And she'd whack him on the dome.  
He'd gad with Plato and other chaps,  
Who came from far and near,  
Till Xantippe came and led him home,  
With a firm grip on his ear.

Toisot condemned the fragrant weed,  
And every kind of meat.  
His wife was worried nearly sick  
To find something he would eat.  
At night, she found, he'd sneak downstairs—  
And then she ceased to fret.  
He'd gorge on prime roast beef, and then—  
He'd smoke a cigar.

Trouble began for poor Jane Welsh,  
When she married Tom Carlyle,  
A whisper drove him frantic and  
He was never known to smile.  
Dyspepsia claimed him for his own,  
He dwelt a thing apart.  
Poor Jane! She did the best she could,  
Then died of a broken heart.

## Held For Stealing Gold Casket From Big Steel Magnate

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Charged with the larceny of a gold casket valued at \$10,000 from Charles M. Schwab, steel magnate, George Williams, 22, a seaman, and Einar Dietrickson, 20, a steward, formerly employed in the Schwab home in Riverside drive, are under arrest here.

The casket, which was given to Mr. Schwab by the city of Baltimore several years ago, was stolen, the police alleged, by Dietrickson. The police said he turned it over to Williams, who took it to Berlin, Germany, and there sold it.

Police were notified of a report that the casket had been offered for sale in Germany and suspicion was directed against Dietrickson, as he had left the Schwab employ shortly after disappearance of the box.

Williams was employed on the steamship *Monrovia* and recently suspicion was aroused that sailors on this ship had been engaged in smuggling goods stolen here into Germany. Investigation when the ship arrived here last Friday resulted in discovery of quantities of various articles, believed to have been stolen. Further inquiry resulted in locating Williams and Dietrickson. After detectives called last night the men admitted the theft and told the manner in which the casket was disposed of.

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Oleo, Purity Nut, per lb. ....	30c
Full Cream Cheese, per lb. ....	30c
Bacon, Breakfast, Morrell's, 1-lb. carton ....	54c
Crisco, 1-lb. can ....	21c
Crisco, 1½-lb. can ....	32c
Crisco, 6-lb. can ....	\$1.21
Oranges, Florida, 200s and 216s, per doz. ....	27c
Potatoes, Irish, per lb. ....	2½c
Lard, Compound, per lb. ....	14½c
Pure Lard, Morrell's, 1-lb. pkg. ....	20c
Picnics, Wilson's Certified, per lb. ....	22c
Coffee, Canova, 1-lb. can ....	35c
Coffee, Dean's, 1-lb. can ....	38c
Coffee, Dean's, 3-lb. can ....	\$1.10
Meal, Best Cream, 2-lb. sack ....	5c
Meal, Best Cream, 6-lb. sack ....	13c
Meal, Best Cream, 12-lb. sack ....	26c
Meal, Best Cream, 25-lb. sack ....	51c
Flour, Chief, 24-lb. sack, \$1.49; 12-lb., 76c; 6-lb. ....	40c
Beauty Biscuit, 24-lb. sack, \$1.53; 12-lb. sack, 78c; 6-lb. ....	41c
Flour, Red Bowl, 24-lb. sack, \$1.30; 12-lb., 68c; 6-lb. ....	36c
Flour, Trysum, 24-lb. sack, \$1.34; 12-lb., 70c; 6-lb. ....	37c

## Cat In Mail Bag Gives Workers A Fright; Is Adopted

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Half a dozen mail handlers on a Hudson river pier received the fright of their lives, the truth of the adage that a cat has nine lives was once more vindicated, and employees of New York's central postoffice adopted a pet—all as result of a skein of fate which began unwinding eight days ago in Manchester, England.

Buried deep in a pile of 6,100 mail bags in the hold of the steamer *Acquinta*, a sealed mail sack made the trans-Atlantic journey and was unloaded on the pier. A workman noticed a slight movement in the bag. "Help, murder, a bomb," he shouted, and the dock swarmed with men who ran for their lives.

Venturing back after their first fear was calmed, some of the boldest investigated with the result that the bag was loaded on a truck, rushed to the postoffice and opened, disclosing a small-sized gray kitten which wrinkled its nose and called unmistakably for food to break its eight-day fast.

Warm milk was produced, kitty purled and made friends all around, and it was announced that the stow-away was to be taken into the official family of the United States civil service.

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### Women's 16-Button Fine French Kid Gloves

Regular \$10 Values  
They are all white, white and black and white with black stitchings.  
Wednesday sale price—

\$7.45

### Women's 20-Button Fine French Kid Gloves

Regular \$12 Values  
A large assortment in white only. Beautiful quality and a gift you'll enjoy having given. Wednesday sale price—

\$9.50

### Regular \$7.50 12-Button Gloves

These extra fine gloves are all white and white with three rows stitchings in black. They'll make gift giving a pleasure

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### Regular \$12 12 and 16-Button Gloves

The exceptionally low price quoted on these gloves makes them a value hard to duplicate.

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This glove is a fine French Kid, in champagne, mode, gray, white and white-and-black. Wednesday Sale Price—

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